

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in the subject application. Claims 2-6 and 8-10 have been amended to correct errors in accordance with the U.S. practice. Claims 12-13 have been added. Support for the amendments to claims 2-6 and 8-10 are self-explanatory; support for claims 12-13 can be found at the original claim 9 and page 5, lines 6-15, in the specification, as originally filed. No new matter has been introduced.

Species Election

In response to the Examiner's requirement for election of species, Applicants elect, with traverse, the following groups for further prosecution:

Group (a), protein conjugates comprising 1-3 hemoglobins (Hb) and 1-3 human serum albumins (HSA);

Group 1), purification of Hb-HSA conjugates comprising ion exchange chromatography;

Group II), Hb/HSA conjugation a two-step coupling.

Claims 1-3 and 6-13 read on the elected species of Group (a), Group 1), and Group II).

Applicants submit that coupling methods recited in claim 9 and purification methods recited in claim 10 are technical solutions for a single problem, i.e., conjugation in claim 9 and purification in claim 10. Therefore, Applicants disagree with the Examiner's election of species requirement, and request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the requirements regarding claims 9 and 10.

Applicants are submitting a Change of Address, Revocation of Previous Power of

Attorney, and New Power of Attorney. Please use the correspondence address below for all future correspondence.

No fee is believed to be due for this response. Should any fees be required, please charge the same to Deposit Account No. 50-2586 and notify Applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,
Perkins Coie LLP

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